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March 11th 1822

No.
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An Inaugural Dissertation

(On)
Hæmorrhoids

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine

By
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admitted ~~Mar~~ April 25 1822

An Inaugural Dissertation
On Haemorrhosis.

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

In treating this subject, I shall not detain you Gentlemen with many preliminary observations; because I am well assured from your known liberality that you will not expect doctrines novel, peculiar, or in any degree interesting, from a new student who has only devoted the usual period of time allotted to him for the study of his profession; and that too under circumstances highly embarrassing, & truly calculated to impede the progress of his pursuit.

The disease, on which I propose to offer a few remarks, has been denominated Haemorrhosis, a term derived from the Greek words Aίμα Blood and Ρεῖν to flow, which in popular language is usually called Flux.

Dr. Cullen in his nosological arrangement has placed it in his first class Pyuric and δ^{th} Genus of the 4th order Haemorrhagies.

Dr. Chapman, however, in his more correct arrange-

ments of diseases according to the different parts of
the system, in which they are principally situated, has in
his lectures considered it as belonging to the vascular
system; and Dr Gibon in his invaluable surgical
lectures ranks of it under the head of the diseases of
the Rectum.

This disease consists of tumours situated in the vicinity
of the Anus which are either denominated external or in-
ternal piles, according to the circumstance of their
being placed within or without the verge of the Anus.
Each tumor generally though not invariably discharges
mucous blood, and from this circumstance the disease
has received the name of Haemorrhoids.

The internal Piles or those situated within the anus not
infrequently extend several inches up the Rectum
when placed however near the verge of the anus, they
frequently become external, being protruded during the
effort to void hardened feces and prevented from
returning to their original situation by the contraction of
the Sphincter ani Muscles.

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The external Haemorrhoids consists in a number of small spherical or oval tumours of different sizes, situated on the verge of the anus, or of a single tumour surrounding it somewhat resembling the Procidentia Ani. In the early stage of this disease these tumours are generally softish, pliable, and moveable, resembling in colour the contiguous parts, but soon becoming hard, immovable, and of a reddish or purple colour.

It sometimes happens, that no Blood is discharged at any stage of the disease, and they are then called Haemorrhoids Cica or Blind piles in contradistinction to the open or Bleeding Piles.

It not unfrequently happens, that the tumours, instead of Blood, discharge a serum fluid, and then the disease has received the name of Haemorrhoids Alter.

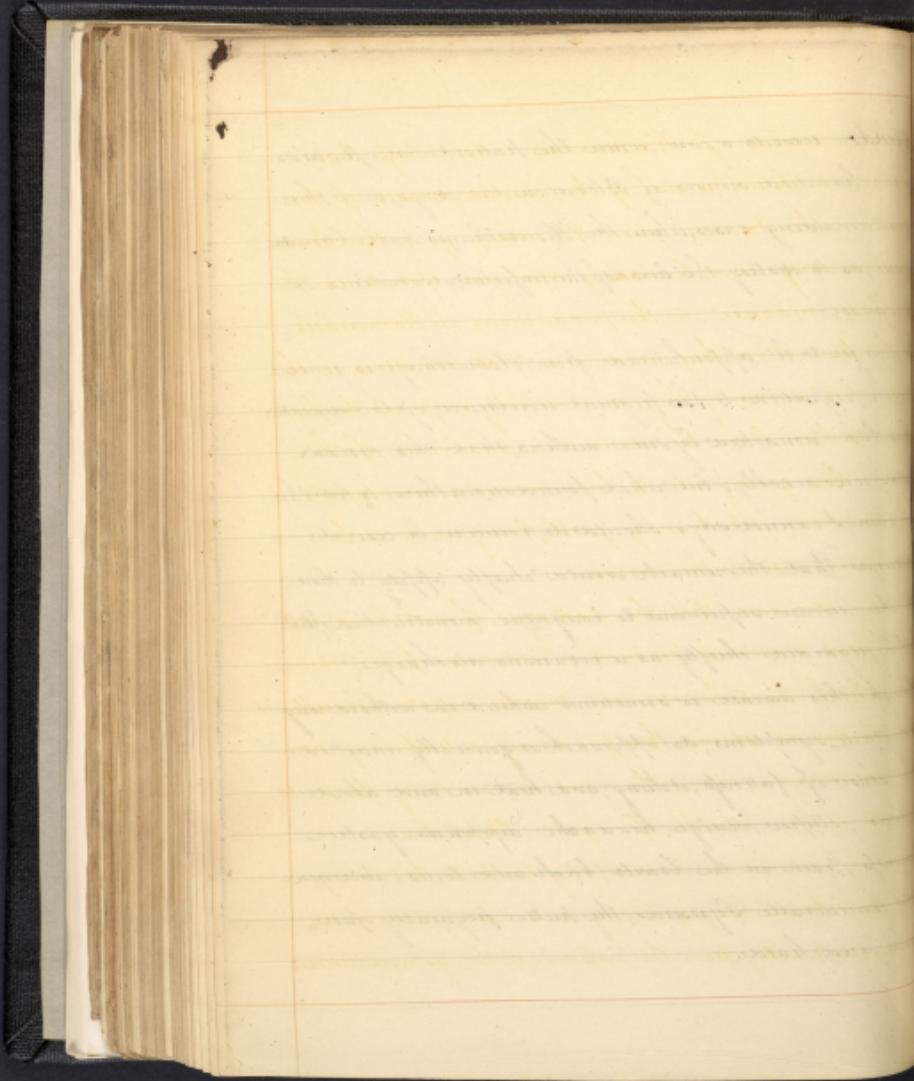
The quantity of Blood discharged from the open or bleeding piles varies considerably at different times, and is discharged under different circumstances; sometimes it flows freely, when the patient is at stool, and occasionally it occurs when no such efforts are made.

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Statard records a case, where the patient lost upwards
of one hundred ounces of Blood in two days, and there
are not wanting cases, where the Hemorrhage has been so
profuse, as to destroy the lives of the unfortunate victims of
this disease.

The danger to be apprehended from Hemorrhage is genera-
lly in proportion to the frequent recurrence of the disease.
It has been remarked by some authors, that this disease
occurs periodically; but what foundation there is for the
observation, I cannot say; should it, however, be correct,
I presume that the remark would chiefly apply to those,
where the disease supervenes to irregular menstruation, and
may be regarded chiefly as a vicarious discharge.

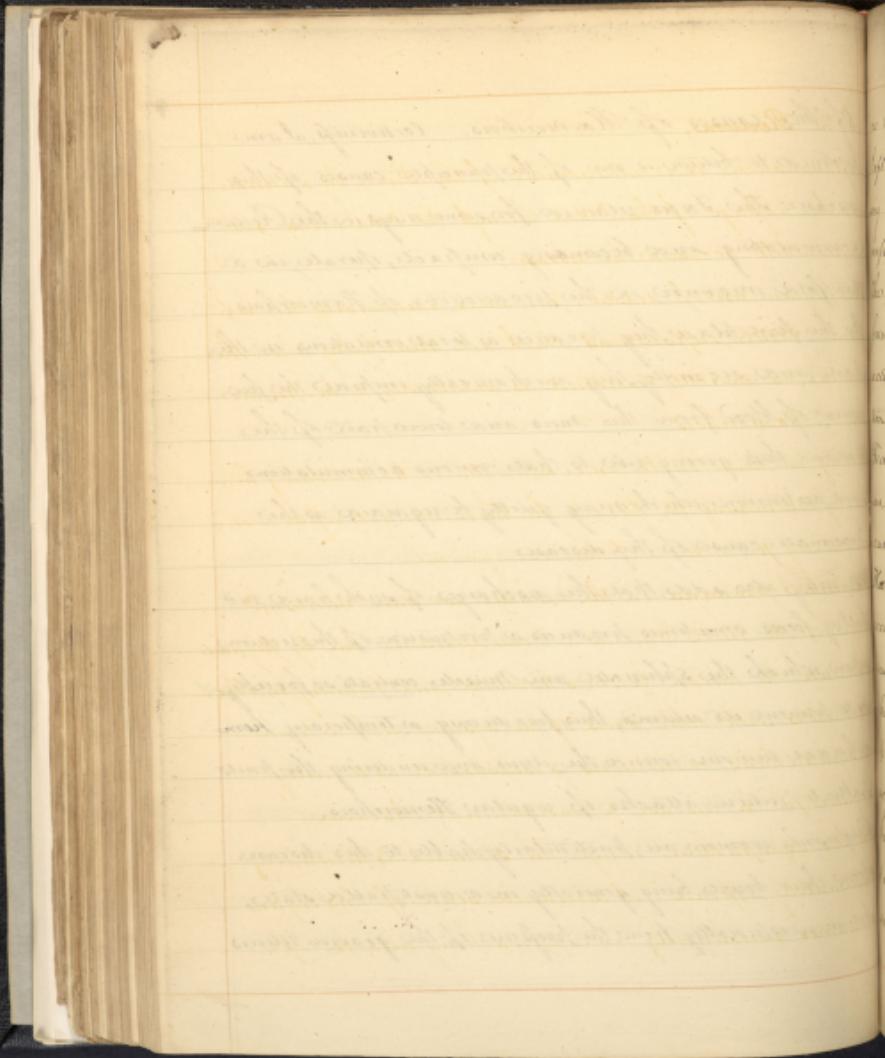
Although this disease is sometimes ushered in without any
premonitory symptoms, its approach is generally marked
by a sense of fullness, itching, and heat in and about
the penis, stupor, vertigo, headache, dyspepsia, gastritis
uneasiness, pain in the bowels, back, and loins, and gen-
erally considerable Pyrexia, the pulse frequently full,
quick, and hard.



Of the causes of Hemorrhoids. Certainly, I am inclined to believe, is one of the principle causes of this disease. The Fæces retained for some days in the Rectum, accumulating and becoming compact, operate, in an two fold manner in the production of Hemorrhoids. In the first place, they produce a local irritation in the part, and secondly, they mechanically impede the free return of blood from the meso and lower parts of the rectum, thus giving rise to that venous accumulation and distension, which may justly be regarded as the proximate cause of the disease.

We may also add, that the discharge of such hard and bulky feces sometimes produces a protrusion of the rectum, upon which the Sphincter ani muscles contract so forcibly, & as to prevent its return, thus producing a temporary hemorrhoidal tumour round the anus, and rendering the parts liable to future attacks of regular Hemorrhoids.

Pregnant women are particularly liable to this disease from their bowels being generally in a constipated state, but more especially from the pressure of the gravid uterus.



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on the Rectum.

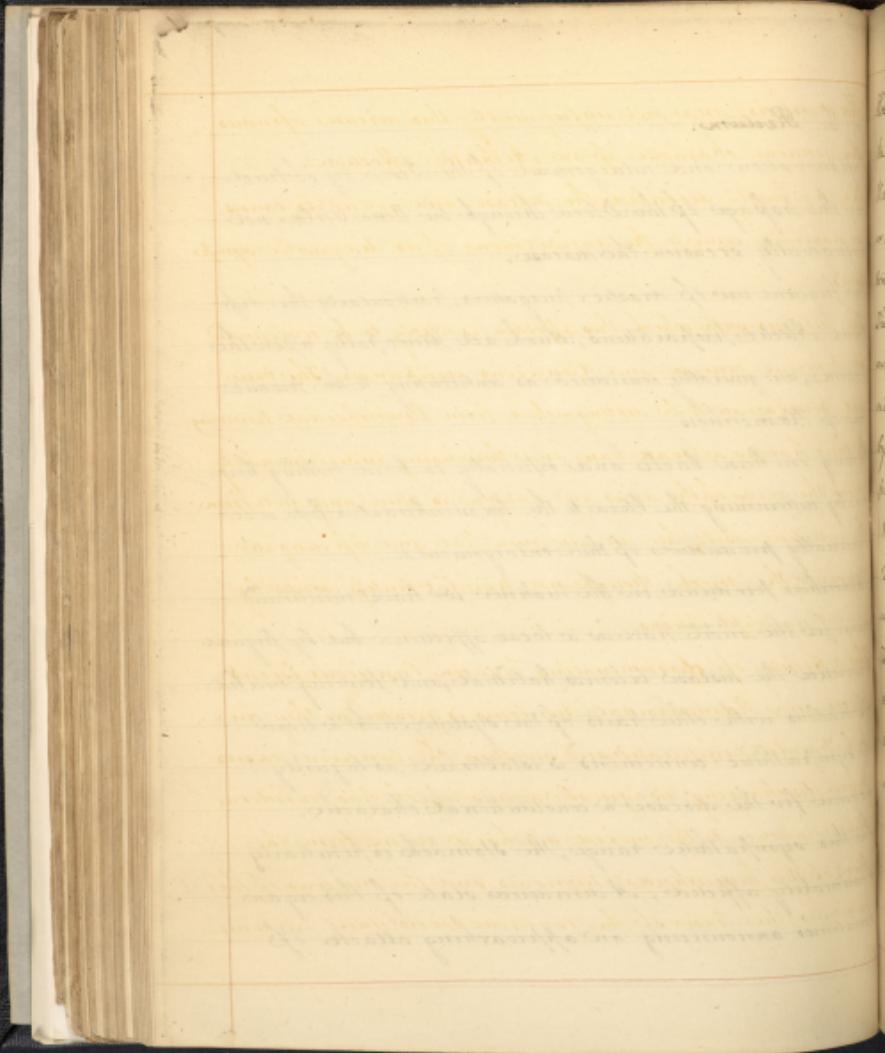
Inflammation and enlargement of the Liver, by obstructing the passage of the Blood through the Vena Portæ, not infrequently occasion the disease.

The frequent use of drastic purgatives, particularly the decomposed Alkalies, preparations, which act principally upon the rectum, are generally considered as contributing to the production of Hemorrhoids.

Riding on horseback and especially on hard trotting however, by determining the Blood to the hemorrhoidal vessels, is occasionally productive of their enlargement.

Hemorrhoids produced in the manner we have mentioned occurs for the most part as a local affection; but by frequent recurrence the disease becomes habitual, and forming material associations with other parts of the system, such as tracts of sympathetic connections established, as to justify a claim for the disease a constitutional character.

In this sympathetic range, the Stomach is peculiarly & intimately affected. A vicarious state of this organ sometimes announcing an approaching attack of



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Hemorrhoids; and not unfrequently this disease assumes
the genuine character of an Arthritic affection.

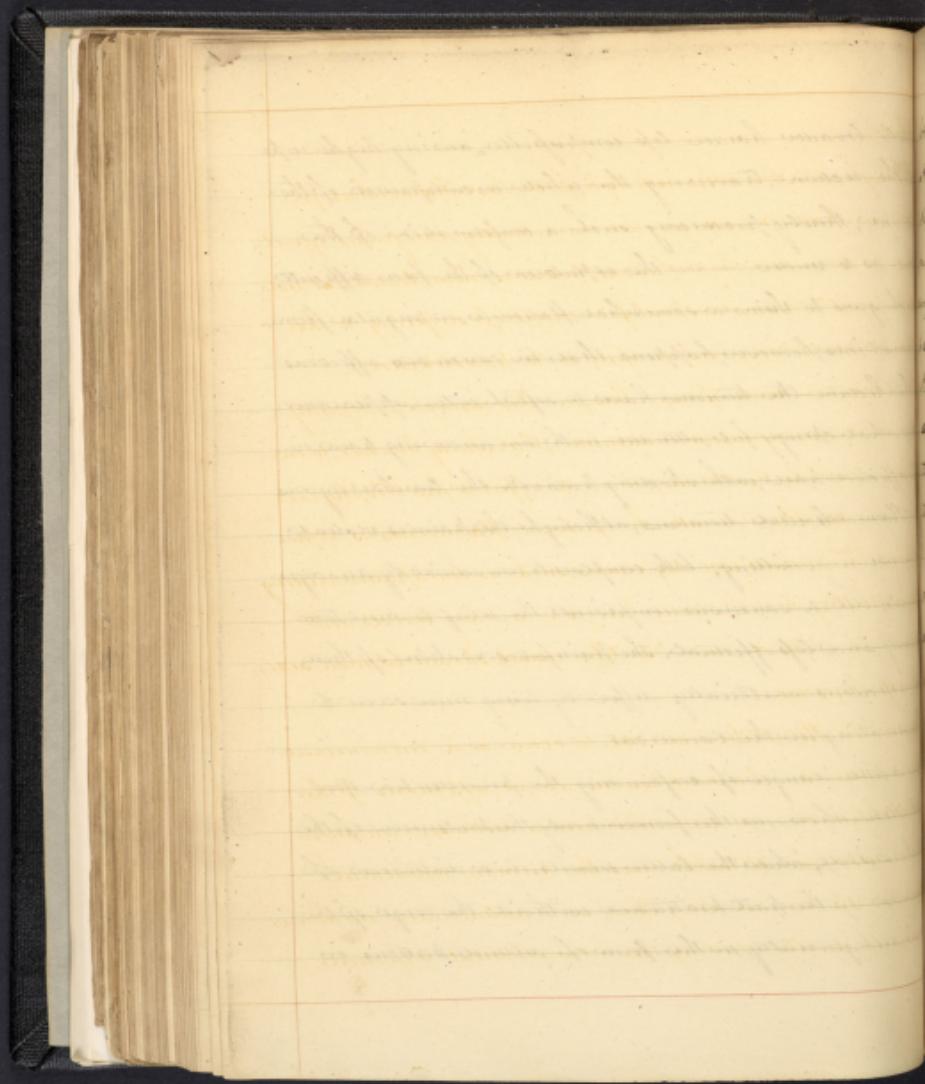
Having briefly described the disease and noticed its causes,
we naturally come to the consideration of its diagnostic symptoms.

The diseases, with which this affection is likely to be confounded
are Benign Venous and Cancerous excrescences. The veno-
nit Venous are to be distinguished from Hemorrhoidal tumours,
by their having a broad base and their being indiscernible
from the rest of the skin and contiguous skin, and not from
the intestine itself; they are also more flat and less elongated,
renous to the touch, though not painful, unless excited by
irritating applications.

The difficulty of discriminating between Cancerous excres-
cences and Hemorrhoidal tumours is greater, as they are
both painful, ulcerated, and swollen; the cancerous excre-
cence discharging disagreeable sponges, which has considera-
ble resemblance to the mucus discharge arising from the
blood of the hemorrhoidal tumours, and the mucus of the
intestines; the bases of the cancerous excrescences are com-

monly broader than the compressible, causing high-ups
in the rectum, traversing the whole circumference of the
intestine, thereby producing such a conformation of the
part as to render ~~more~~ the expulsion of the feces difficult,
which gives to them a somewhat flattened or angular form.
It sometimes, however, happens, that in cancerous affections
of the Rectum the tumours have a softish cotton appearance,
somewhat spongy feel, attended with an unceasing pain in
the affected part, with shooting pains in the lumbar regions.
In Hemorrhoidal tumours, although the pain is violent,
it is not unrelenting; both complaints are relieved by an aperient
enema; but in cancerous complaints the relief is more tem-
porary and less effectual. The painful sensations of these
two affections materially differ by being more severe &
 lancinating in the cancerous.

There is little danger of confounding the preceding two
with Hemorrhoids, as the former is only the protrusion of the
intestine itself, while the latter consists in a distension of
the vessels of the part protruded without the verge of the
lumen, and generally in the form of distinct portions or

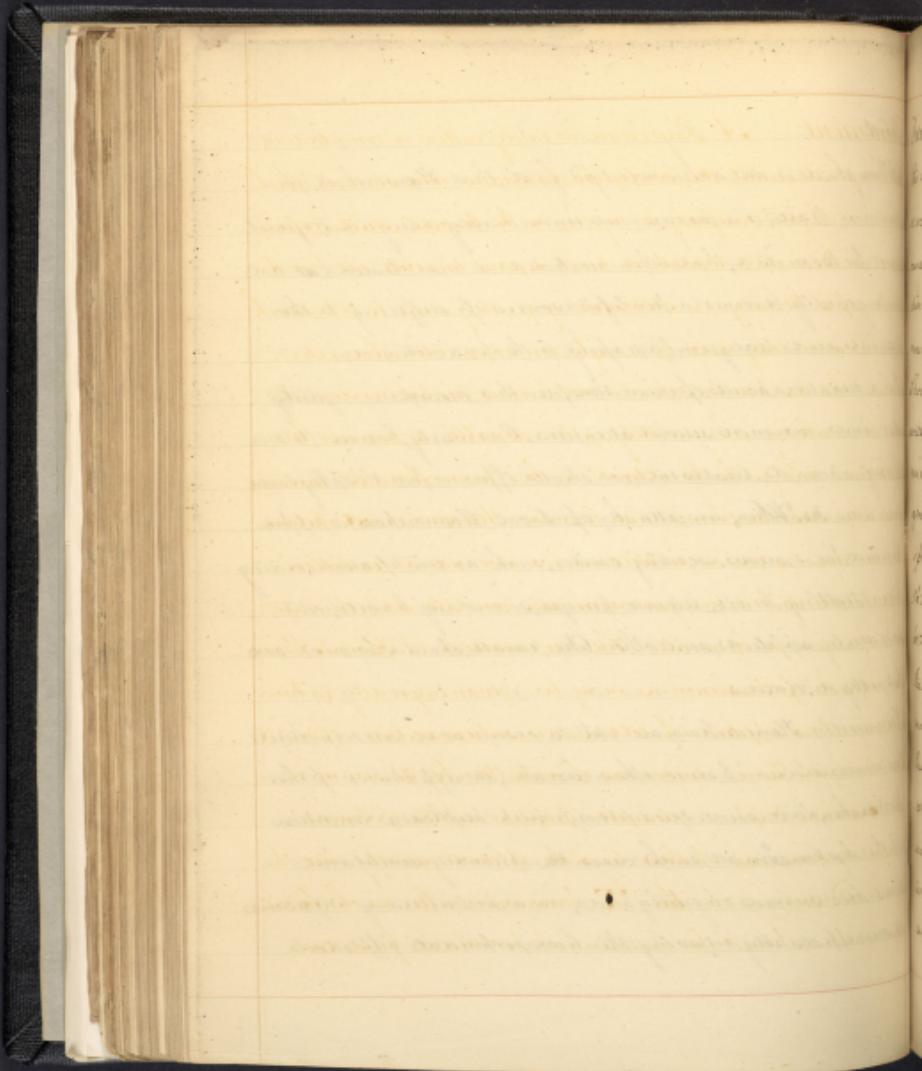


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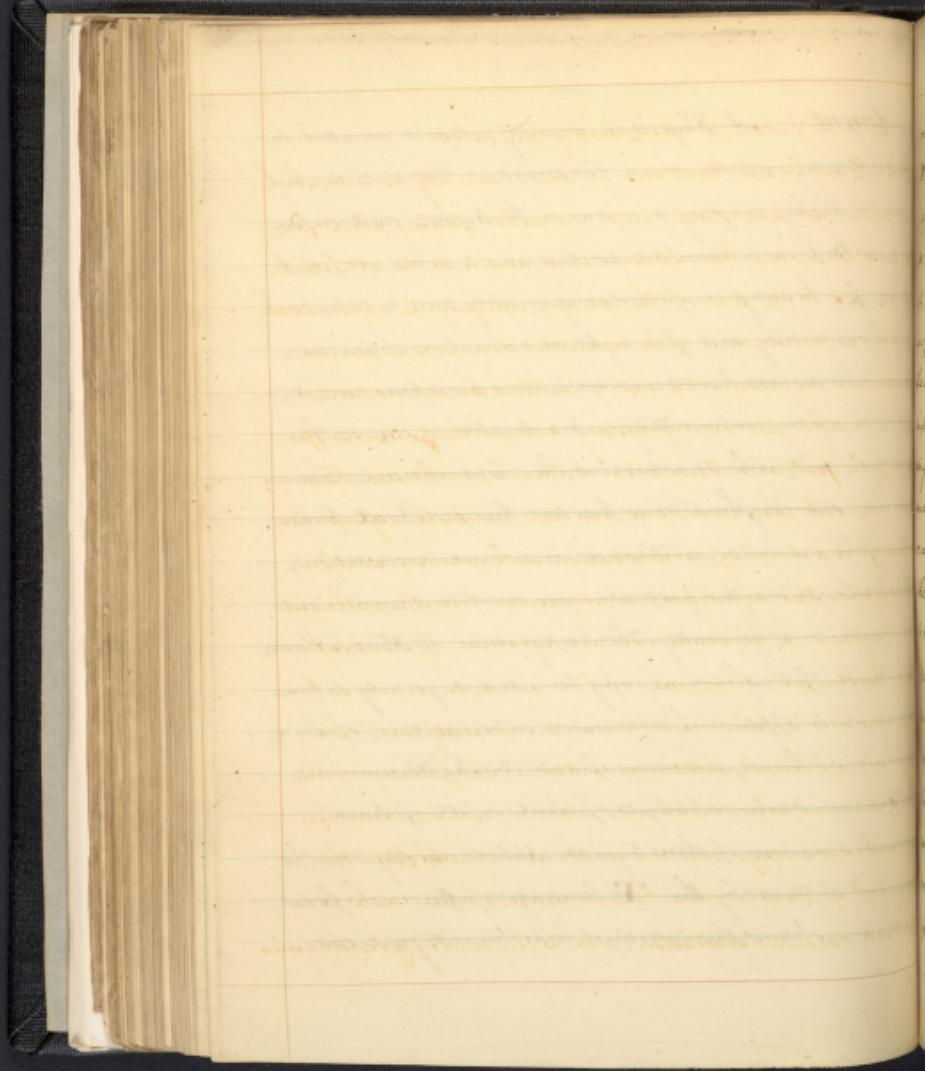
Although it is an acknowledged fact, that Hæmorrhoids, for the most part, is a disease not immediately dangerous; yet it must be admitted, that when neglected or mal-treated, it not unfrequently becomes a prolific source of suffering to the patient and truly embarrassing to the practitioner.

In a curative point of view therefore this disease justly demands our most serious attention. Previously, however, to entering upon its treatment, we shall offer a few physiological remarks. When an attack of Local Hæmorrhoids is apprehended the various exciting causes, such as constipation, riding hard-trotting horses, alocetic purges, sedentary habits, cold suddenly applied, and other like causes, should be more sedulously avoided.

Frequently Hæmorrhoids are apt to occur as a concomitant or consequence of some other disease, as affections of the stomach, liver, and sometimes from a plethoric condition of the system. In all such cases the primary complaint must be removed or mitigated, as a preliminary measure to our effectually relieving the hæmorrhoidal affection.



Treatment A Physician is rarely called or consulted in this complaint, until the disease has arrived at that state, in which it will be highly necessary to enjoin on the patient strict confinement to bed in a recumbent position, and to arrive all food & drink of a heating or stimulating quality, and to take such nourishment only as is of a light anaerative character. Should the disease have proceeded from a prolopus ani, it will be necessary immediately, if practicable, to unclose the intestines and, with its induction, the hemorrhoidal tumor generally subsides. Some times, however, the prolapsed portion of intestine is in so debilitated or distended condition, that tonic and astringent remedies must be administered both locally and generally. The preparation of Kino, & Hems, the extract of Persimmon, may be advantageously taken, and injections applied of cold water, super acetate of lead, Sulphate of Lime, decoctions of oak Bark, Persimmon, or Paracan Bark, or pledges of Lint or folds of linen, wet with some one of these liquids applied directly over the anus and supported by the T bandage; after each fecal evacuation, should the intestine be protruded, great care



ought to be taken to immediately return it.

When Hemorrhoidal tumours appear externally as a local affection, the most speedy and effectual remedy, which can be used to subdue the inflammatory action, is the application of leeches to the seat of the disease, repeating the application as often as the urgency of the symptoms may require their use. Leeches not only reduce the size of the tumours and remove the inflammation, but tend especially to relieve the pain & suffer ing of the patient. From what I have read and seen, I am well convinced, that resection has been too much neglected in cases of Haemorrhoids, accompanied with general fulness of the system. This neglect has probably arisen from the apparent local nature of the complaint, accompanied by the belief, that the very small quantity of blood, which in a general bleed ing, would be taken directly from the diseased part itself, could not materially influence its state. The fallacy of this belief, however, must be obvious, when we reflect, that the expected advantage does not issue so much from the removal of blood, as from the subsidence of those states of general vascular irritation, which frequently accompanies

Potape Super Tertio: Zj
Florum Sulphuris Zj
Vitriatis Potape Zj Min

this disease, and which has a direct tendency to determine the blood to the affected part.

As constipation not only produces the complaint, but necessarily aggravates & perpetuates it, Purgatives should be employed in the very commencement of the disease and they should generally be of the mildest kind. It sometimes however becomes necessary, in consequence of the obstinately constipated condition of the bowels, to resort to more active medicines, such as Calomel combined with Rhubarb, Salsify, or Castor Oil. In most cases the Calomel alone will be found ample sufficient. When the bowels have been fully emptied of their fecal contents, they may be kept sufficiently open by smaller & frequently repeated doses of Calomel which I have found to answer the purpose exceedingly well in the following formula viz:

P. Petasæ Super Tartææ	3 <i>ij</i>
Hæc Sulphuris	3 <i>j</i>
Nitras Petasæ	3 <i>ij</i> M.

Of which one or two tea-spoonfulls may be taken every 3 or 4 hours in therapy according to circumstances.
Rigo Musk. and Molasses has been found by Dr. Pugscott

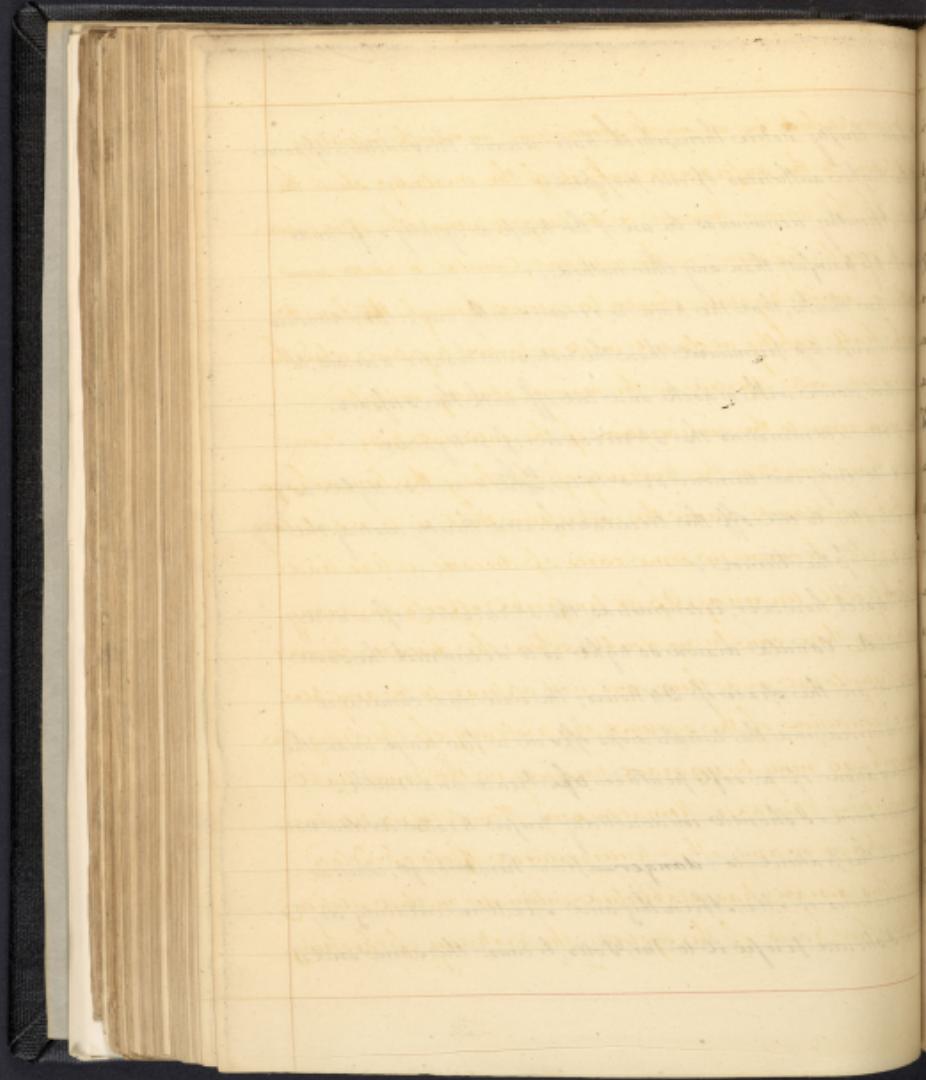
to be an article of diet or lavacive highly suitable in the treatment of this disease; so many cases it has easily succeeded the necessity of using purgative medicines.

The inflammatory symptoms being greatly diminished and the tenderness of the tumors considerably abated, the tincture of Salanninium or Tunguentum e Gallis with the addition of Sanguinaria or Peacock's Specie are sometimes highly efficacious in removing the remains of the disease.

Unguents or Plasters of the various Narcotic herbs have found soothng and useful, particularly the extract of Liverwort and Stramonium.

It sometimes happens, that after these various means have been faithfully adopted the Hemorrhoidal tumors still continue undiminished and troublesome, and require, for their complete eradication, a surgical operation.

All intelligent surgeons unite in recommending their extraction by no little celerity of opinion prevailing in relation to the best mode of accomplishing it, without entering into a full discussion of the respective merits of the various operations proposed by different Surgeons.



I shall briefly notice those which have received the sanction of some
of the higher authorities of our profession.

Mr. Abernethy recommends the use of the knife as equally safe, and
much less painful than any other method.

Mr. Ware thinks, that the pain is occasioned by one or two tumours
smaller and less prominent than the rest, and thus he advises, to
be pulled down with a hook and cut off with the scissars.

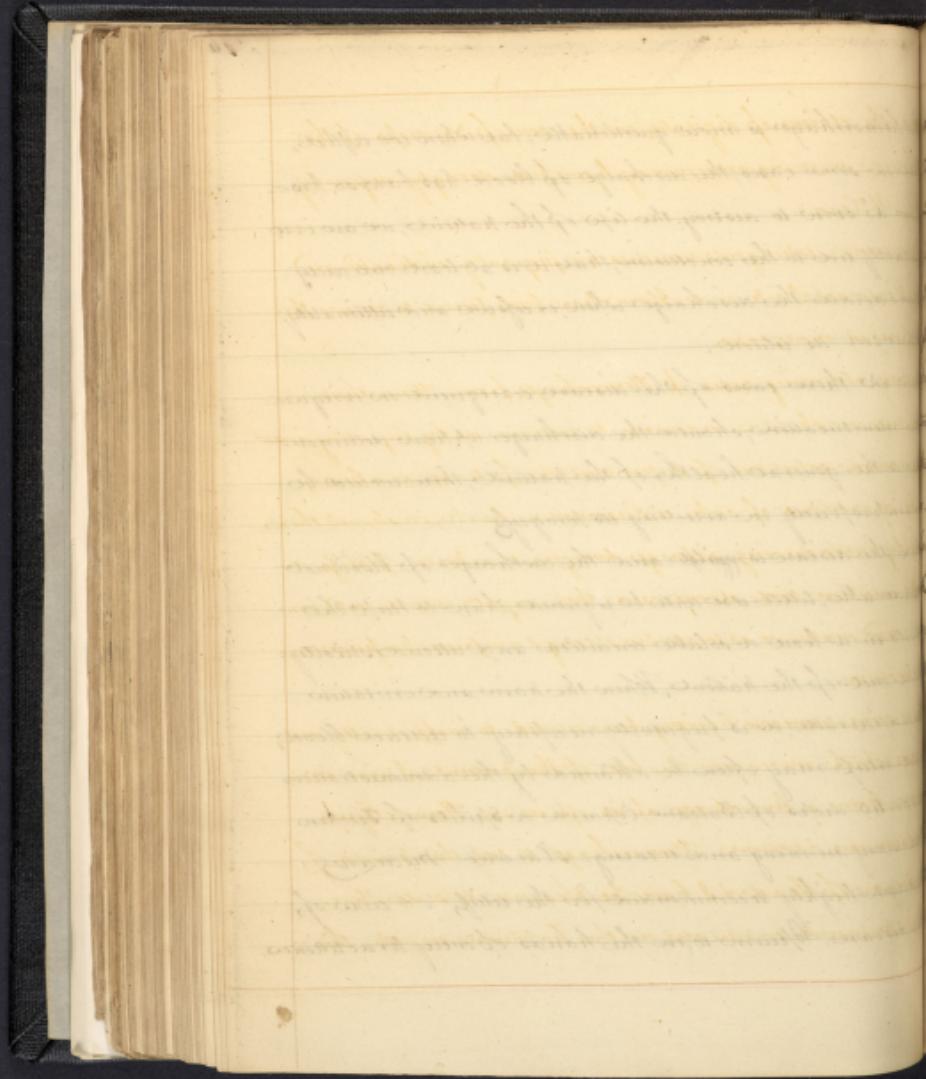
Mr. Potts recommends the application of a ligature to the
artery to only one tumor at a time, ~~to be~~ drawn so tight as
effectually to cut off the circulation and thereby destroy the
vitality of the tumor.

Dr. Phisick, however, recommends the application of a wire
and double canula drawn so tight as to accomplish the same
purpose in the space of 24 hours; the wire and canula is
then removed and the tumor drops off in a few days, under the
application of a soft poultice ~~of~~ bread and milk.

This operation I should undoubtedly prefer because it does not
subject the patient to danger from hemorrhage, whereas
the operations of Mr. Abernethy and Mr. Ware certainly do,
and I should prefer it to Mr. Potts, because the same end

is accomplished in a much shorter time, and with infinite less pain to the unfortunate subject of the malady; Should the base of the tumour, however, be too large to admit the application of a single ligature to the vein and artery, a needle armed with a double ligature should be carried through the base, & each half tightly included in its respective ligature, when the separation will be effected in the manner already described.

We now come to the consideration of the internal piles. Some writers have doubted the propriety of checking the hemorrhage in this complaint, under the impression, that it is a voluntary discharge; because in some cases of disease it has had a beneficial tendency. Of its beneficial effects in many instances there can be no doubt. When the disease however is entirely local, and there does not appear to be any plethoric condition of the system, the propriety of checking the hemorrhage may be regarded precisely in the same light as arresting Epistaxis, Hematomeas, Hemorrhoids, uterine Hemorrhage, or any other unnatural flow of Blood. When this disease has established intimate mutual relations with other parts of the system; the propriety of checking



the hemorrhage is more questionable; but when we reflect, that in some cases, the discharge of blood has been so profuse, as even to destroy the life of the patient, we are irresistibly led to the conclusion, that it is at least our duty to moderate the discharge when excessive and ultimately to prevent its return.

Even in those cases of the disease consequent on irregular menstruation, should the discharge appear detrimental to the general health of the patient, there would be no impropriety in arresting its progress.

When the disease is simple, and the discharge of blood not considerable, little else will be required, than to keep the bowls in a loose & soluble condition and attend strictly to the wants of the patient. When the pain and irritation are considerable, it is frequently necessary to attract blood; great relief may often be obtained by the administration of 50 or 60 drops of Balsam Espana or Spirits of Sanguine every morning and evening. Narcotic Medicines have been highly recommended for the relief of the cure of this disease, Opium being the favorite of many practitioners.

and the claims of digitata in the case of 35 drops of the
Injunctior morning and evening have been strongly urged by
Dr. McLean.

Tonic and astringent remedies are frequently indicated, and
the Peruvian Bark and Alum have been found to answer these
purposes in most cases.

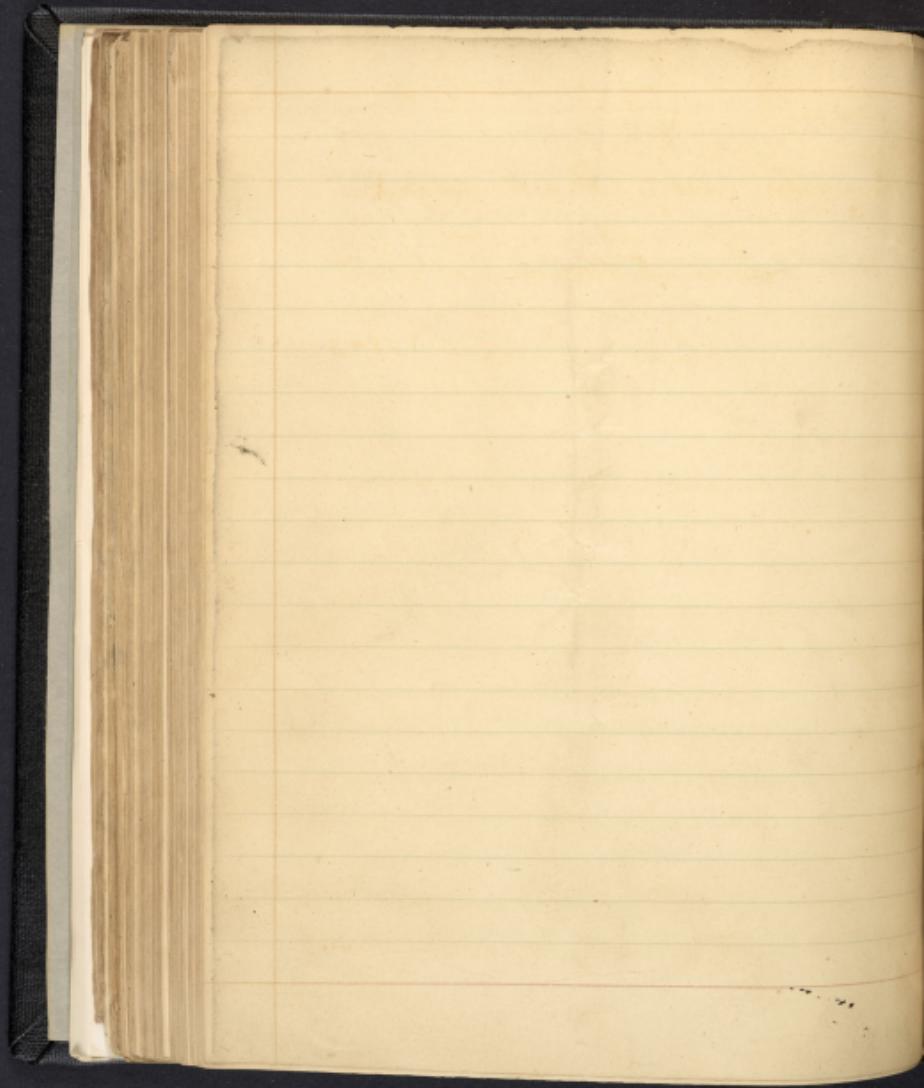
In very alarming cases of Hemorrhage from Hemorrhoidal
tumors, we should endeavour to restrain it by injecting into
the veins solutions of Super acetate of lead or alum,
or the decoction of roots or Peruvian bark, or should these
fail, by introducing a large bougie, or a piece of Pig's or
sheep's intestine tied at one end, then inject into it cold wine
igow and water so as to make strong & uniform pressure on
the rectum.

These several means, having been wanted to ineffectually in
a case, which menaced the life of the patient, I was in-
duced from a knowledge of its effects in Hemorrhagic
Hematemesis, & uterine Hemorrhage to try the powers of
the sugar of lead & I have the pleasure to state, that
the experiments evinced in the happiest results; this

hemorrhage being restrained in a very short time. It was given, to the best of my recollection, in doses of about 3 grains of the Superacetalis opolae, combined with 2 gr of Thaea and ½ gr of opium every half hour until the hemorrhage was arrested.

When the disease has arrived at that stage as to involve the general system in its consequences, we should enter upon the treatment of it with great caution; we should direct our attention, in the first place, to the diet, exterior and bowels of the patient—rigid astringency to the antiphlogistic regimen, very moderate exercise and the frequent exhibition of purgative medicines will be required previous to our expecting much benefit from local applications.

A mild Ptyalism, gradually induced and continued for some time, has been found successful in cases where hemorrhoid has been cured after long standing. Some physicians have also advised in such cases, a change of habits and removal to another climate. Who have thus endeavoured, imperfectly we confess, to



fulfill the duty assigned us and upon reviewing our labours
there remains but a faint hope, that we have accomplished
our object; the gratification of the medical faculty of
the University of Pennsylvania.

Thos P Hodge

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